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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of
Nobuyuki Enomoto, et al.
Serial No.: 10/643,481
Filed: August 18, 2003

Group Art Unit: 2442
Examiner: Blaise, Christopher R.

For: NETWORK SYSTEM, LEARNING BRIDGE NODE, LEARNING METHOD AND ITS PROGRAM

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313 – 1450
BOX AF

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated January 29, 2010, please reconsider the above-identified application as follows:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Claims 3-8, 11-12, 18-34, 36-50, 52-55, and 41-42 are all the claims presently pending in the application.

Claims begin on page 2 of this paper. There are no new claim amendments, but a clean version of the claims is included for reference. No new matter is added.

Remarks begin at page 9 of this paper.

CLAIMS:

1-2. (Cancelled.)

3. (Previously Presented) A network system for a network having plural nodes connected, wherein a node belonging to said network comprises:
a CPU (Central Processing Unit) executing a learning frame management unit which refers to a source media access control address (SAAC SA) table cache to determine whether a learning frame transmission request of a SAAC SA has been made; and
a memory system that stores:
a source MAC address (SAAC SA) table cache which stores an output port for a destination MAC address and other information corresponding to a virtual local area network (VLAN) based Ethernet frame, said destination MAC address being information being a destination address, said network transmits to a path opposite to another path in which a main signal frame flows; and
the SAAC SA table cache which stores a source MAC address which has made a learning frame transmission request, said main signal frame having said source MAC address and said destination MAC address.

4. (Previously Presented) The network system as set forth in claim 3, wherein said nodes comprise:
an aging request acceptance unit which ages said MAC SA table cache, and
a transmission request unit which makes a learning frame transmission request to a CPU.

5. (Previously Presented) The network system as set forth in claim 4, wherein said nodes have a learning management computer-readable medium recorded with a computer program installed therein, said medium is a learning frame program.

6. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) A network system for a network having plural nodes connected, wherein a node belonging to said network comprises:
a learning management computer-readable medium recorded with a computer

address." (emphasis added by Applicants) as recited in claim 3, and similarly recited in claims 18 and 32. The Examiner, however, is clearly incorrect.

That is, contrary to the Examiner's allegations, at least Figs. 38-40 and corresponding description, and more specifically page 62, lines 1-3, page 112, lines 21-25, page 113, lines 11-16, and page 114, lines 11-14 clearly disclose the aforementioned features of the claimed invention.

For example, the specification of the present Application on page 112, lines 21-26, referring to exemplary Figs. 38-40, discloses:

> *"In this embodiment, even when the communication flow is flowing by sending the learning frame through a path opposite to the path in which the main signal frame flows, the learning frame can be sent to the source node of the main signal frame, thereby preventing the main signal frame from wasting a long time.* (emphasis added by Applicants)

Similarly, with regard to the *"main signal frame"* recited in claims 3, 18, and 32, the specification of the present Application on page 112, lines 21-26, referring to exemplary Figs. 38-40, discloses:

> *"In this example, the source port from the client S1 is determined as the output port for the DA=C0 MAC address in the MAC SA table cache 51 of the switch 43, and the source MAC address of the client S1 is registered in the MAC SA table cache 51 of the switch 44 as the output port for the MAC address of the client S1."*

Accordingly, the specification of the present Application clearly discloses to one ordinary skill in the art, *"said destination mac information being included in a learning frame that said network transmits to a path opposite to another path in which a main signal frame flows; and the MAC SA table cache which stores a source MAC address which has made a learning frame transmission request, said main signal frame having said source MAC address and said destination MAC address."* (emphasis added by Applicants) as recited in claim 3, and similarly recited in claims 18 and 33.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

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